

*His Character, Court, and
Chroniclers 317*

there," Scotland has neither habitations, towns, nor villages. Of Ireland he reproduces the well-known legend of St. Brendan,

Naturally, Edrisi's book is best on Italy, especially on Sicily, "a pearl of the world," and Apulia, "country of the Lombards," and he gives a careful description of Palermo, with its mosques and Moslem population. His sketch of Rome reflects the mind of a Moslem, tinged with Arab fables, and the conception of the Pope as a kind of Christian khalif.

Rome is one of the columns of Christianity and the seat of a patriarch. A river divides the city from east to west. Its bottom is paved with sheets of copper *BO* that no one can cast anchor there. The Romans count by means of this river, and speak of dates as "from the year of the copper." The ships with their freights enter into Rome by this river, and are drawn thus freighted right up to the very shops of the merchants. Within the city rises a grand church constructed under the names of the Apostles Peter and Paul; nine hundred spans in length, six hundred wide, and three hundred high. In Rome, there are 1200 churches; the streets are paved in white and blue marble. There is a church of magnificent architecture modelled on the design of that of Jerusalem, as

wide as long . . . , and all adorned outside
with green
emeralds. Twelve statues of pure gold
support
the table of that altar; each statue is in
height seven
and a half spans, and. has eyes of rubies
. . . In the
city of Rome there is a palace of the
Sovereign, who is